



***de maximis, inc.***

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April 15, 2009

**VIA ELECTRONIC & US MAIL**

Ms. Alice Yeh  
ATTN: Lower Passaic River Remedial Project Manager  
Emergency and Remedial Response Division  
U.S. EPA, Region 2  
290 Broadway, 19th Floor  
New York, New York 10007

**Re: Monthly Progress Report No. 23 – March 2009  
Lower Passaic River Study Area (LPRSA) Remedial Investigation/  
Feasibility Study (RI/FS)  
CERCLA Docket No. 02-2007-2009**

Dear Ms. Yeh:

***de maximis, inc.*** is submitting this Monthly Progress Report for the above-captioned project on the behalf of the RI/FS Agreement Settling Parties (Cooperative Parties Group or CPG) pursuant to the Administrative Settlement Agreement and Order on Consent (Settlement Agreement or AOC). The Progress Report satisfies the reporting requirements of Paragraph 42 of said Settlement Agreement.

**(a) Actions which have been taken to comply with this Settlement Agreement during the previous month.**

**Meetings/Conference Calls**

- On March 18 and 19, 2009 the CPG Modeling Team met with EPA, MPI, HQI, and others in order to exchange information on the modeling progress to date by both parties as well as discuss potential approaches to simplify the modeling.
- CPG participated in a conference call with the EPA on March 25, 2009 regarding ecological comments on the draft Problem Formulation Document (PFD).

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- CPG participated in a conference call with the EPA on March 26, 2009 regarding human health risk assessment comments on the PFD.

#### **Correspondence**

- On March 3, 2009, the revised draft Feasibility Study Work Plan was submitted to EPA.
- On March 5, 2009, CPG received comments on the FSP2 Workshop Agreements and Action Items, January 14-15, 2009 (Draft).
- On March 5, 2009, the CPG received comments on the "LPRSA Human Health and Ecological Risk Assessment Streamlined 2009 Problem Formulation", January 30, 2009 (Draft).
- On March 5, 2009, CPG received conditional approval to use Anchor QEA's version of SEDZLJ sediment transport model.
- On March 16, CPG submitted the February 2009 Progress report to EPA.

#### **Work**

- CPG continued data validation for analytical results of the Low Resolution Coring (LRC) sediment samples. Approximately 85% of the data validation task is complete with forecast to complete by the first week of May.
- CPG continued review of data from the LRC program.
- CPG RI/FS Team continues to coordinate with the CPG Modeling Team relative to model set up, data support, and modeling goals.
- CPG continued work on the LRC Site Characterization Report which includes a description of the field activities, submittal of field records, analytical data results and presentation and summary of data validation results and outcome.
- CPG reviewed comments received from EPA on Field Sampling Plan Volume 2 (FSP2) Workshop Agreements/Action Items and draft PFD.
- CPG continued to draft QAPPs for Fish Tissue and Benthic Sampling field programs.
- CPG reviewed the quality assurance documentation for the 2008 LPRSA Bathymetry Survey data.
- CPG initiated the preliminary technology screening process.

#### **(b) Results of Sampling and Tests**

- PDFs of the LRC lab data packages and copies of lab LRC EDD files received in March 2009 are being provided to EPA under separate cover. A Region 2 MEDD submittal of data validated in March 2009 will be provided as an upload to the PREmis web portal.

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**(c) Work planned for the next two months with schedules relating to the overall project schedule for RI/FS completion**

- CPG will continue to prepare the QAPP for the Physical Water Column Monitoring Program.
- CPG will complete review of the 2008 LPRSA Bathymetry Survey.
- CPG will complete LRC data validation and submit validated LRC data set to EPA.
- CPG will finalize revisions to the RI/FS schedule.
- CPG will continue preparation of the LRC Site Characterization Report.
- CPG will finalize and submit the revised PFD to EPA.
- CPG will finalize and submit FSP2 Fish Tissue Sampling and Benthic Sampling QAPPs to EPA.

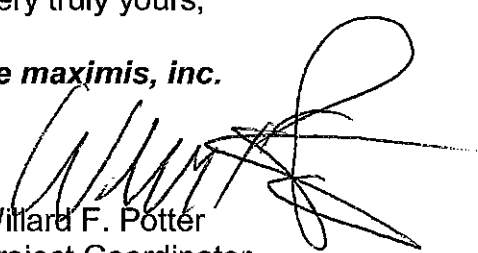
**(d) Problems encountered and anticipated problems, actual or anticipated delays, and solutions developed and implemented to address actual or anticipated problems or delays.**

CPG can proceed to develop an LPR/NB sediment transport model in accordance with the Modeling Work Plan due to EPA's conditional approval to use Anchor QEA's version of SEDZLJ sediment transport model.

If you have any questions, please contact me or Rob Law at (908) 735-9315.

Very truly yours,

***de maximis, inc.***

  
Willard F. Potter  
Project Coordinator

cc: Sarah Flanagan, EPA Office of Regional Counsel  
William Hyatt, CPG Coordinating Counsel  
Lisa Baron, USACE  
Tim Kubiak, USFWS  
Reyhan Mehran, NOAA  
Janine MacGregor, NJDEP  
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